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24 August 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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24 August 1962

DAILY BRIEF

Berlin: The appointment of East German Major General Helmut Poppe as commandant in Berlin twenty-four hours after Moscow abolished the post of Soviet commandant underlines the bloc's determination to force the West to accord at least de facto recognition to East Germany.

General Yakubovsky, commander in chief of the Soviet forces in Germany, has assumed many of the responsibilities of the former Soviet commandant related to Allied access to West Berlin. He presumably will decline to deal with the Allies on matters related to East Berlin. He probably will insist that any communications on such matters from the three Western commandants be addressed to the East German commandant, thereby attempting to force recognition of the latter's authority. The appointment sets up the machinery for the Ulbricht regime to demand that US military patrols submit to East German controls at Friedrichstrasse or face exclusion.

Locally, Poppe will command the Security Alert Police who guard the sector and zonal borders of Berlin. Their subordination to the East German Ministry of Defense violates postwar quadripartite agreements that the city be occupied only by troops of the four powers. Poppe's appointment as commandant of "the capital of the GDR, Berlin," in effect poses an East German claim to all of the city. Similar announcements in the past have specified "the capital, Democratic Berlin," i.e., the Soviet sector.

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USSR-Iraq: [Delivery of Soviet surface-to-air missiles to Iraq is to begin before the end of the year.]

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[Soviet missile experts have been engaged in preliminary work for the establishment of surface-to-air missile sites in Iraq since May.]

[The USSR has supplied similar missiles to Indonesia and has agreed to furnish them to the UAR.]

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*France: [President de Gaulle apparently continues to resist efforts to provide for his personal safety despite the assassination attempt of 22 August which he allegedly admitted was "a close call."]

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[De Gaulle had absolutely refused adequate protection prior to the latest attempt on his life, although the security services had been increasingly concerned over the likelihood of renewed OAS activity.]

[doubts that even this latest attempt will induce De Gaulle to be more cooperative with the security services.]

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[Despite the fact that the 22 August attempt occurred following a special cabinet meeting to deal with mounting rightist terrorism, De Gaulle's movements on that day were organized and controlled as usual entirely by his personal staff. Neither the Ministry of Interior nor the Sureté Nationale was told of his departure time.]

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